

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

***Status of the Claims***

In the present Reply, claim 4 has been amended and claims 5-8 have been added. Thus, claims 1-8 are pending in the present application.

No new matter has been added by way of the amendment and new claims. Support for the amendment to claim 4 is found in the present specification at page 1, lines 13-14, page 9, lines 8+ (see the examples). New claims 5-8 are drawn to other embodiments of the present invention and have been added for the Examiner's consideration. Support for new claim 5 is found in the present specification at page 4, lines 18-21; support for new claim 6 is found at page 4, lines 27-28; support for new claim 7 is found at page 5, lines 1-3; and support for new claim 8 is found at page 5, lines 4-6.

Based upon the above considerations, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

***Conclusion***

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Eugene T. Perez, Reg. No. 48,501, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

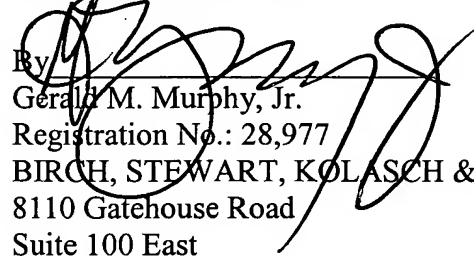
Application No. 10/579,731  
Art Unit 1614  
First Preliminary Amendment

Docket No.: 0171-1273PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
By \_\_\_\_\_  
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